Case 2:18-cv-05458-NIOA Document 1 Filed 12/17/18 Page 10:11 Scale

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM)

(c) Attomeys (Firm Name, AKOlman Ely, P C. 414 Hu	of First Listed Plaintiff EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA Address, and Telephone Number Ilmeville Avenue Penn	,	A Cou	nty of Residence E. IN LAND CO THE TRACT orneys (If Known)	(IN U.S. P.	<i>LAINTIFF CASES O</i> ON CASES, USE TI		: coni	ſ <u>Ŷ</u> , ₽ <i>ſ</i>
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YI. CAUSE OF ACTION	False Claims Act	tute under which you ar 31 U S C Section : ause		? jurisdictional stat	tutes unless di	versity)			
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: False Claims CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F R.Cv P				\$		HECK YES only URY DEMAND:		complaint	t
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions)	JUDGE			DOCKE	ET NUMBER			
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Case 2:18-cv-05458-NIC <u>Document 1</u> Filed 12/17/18 Page 2 of 11 D STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA DESIGNATION FORM (to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar 61 Brown Drive Churchville, PA 18966 Address of Plaintiff: 585 County Line Road Radnor, Pennsylvania 19087 Address of Defendant: Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Case Number ___ Judge Date Terminated. Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to any of the following questions: Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court? Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual? I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case 🔲 is / (x) is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above. 314352 12/18/2018 Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I D # (if applicable) CIVIL: (Place a v in one category only) Federal Question Cases: B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts Insurance Contract and Other Contracts FELA 2. Airplane Personal Injury Assault, Defamation Jones Act-Personal Injury 3 Antitrust Marine Personal Injury 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury Patent Labor-Management Relations Other Personal Injury (Please spectfy) Products Liability Civil Rights Habeas Corpus Products Liability - Asbestos Securities Act(s) Cases All other Diversity Cases Social Security Review Cases (Please spectfy) _ 11 All other Federal Question Cases False Claims Act (Please specify) ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration) W. Charles Sipio , counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53 2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs Charles Sipio DEC 17 2018. Relief other than monetary damages is sought.

Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff

Attorney I D # (if applicable)

12/12/2018

NOTE A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with FRCP 38

Case 2:18-cv-05458-NIQA Document 1 Filed 12/17/18 Page 3 of 11

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Vode Seal

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

SHILOH

CIVIL ACTION

PHILADELPHIA VASCULAR INST.

V.

18 5458

wcsipio@kolmanlaw.net

E-Mail Address

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:

215-750-3138

FAX Number

12 Dat	2/12/2018 W. Charles Sipio Aaron Shiloh M.D. FSIR Attorney-at-law Attorney for					
(f)	Standard Management - Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks.	(X				
(e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.)						
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.						
(c)	Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	()			
) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.					
(a)	Habeas Corpus Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.	()			

(Civ. 660) 10/02

Telephone

215-750-3134



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

	16 5458
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	NO
ex rel.	CIVIL ACTION
AARON SHILOH, M.D., FSIR	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
Relator,	FILED UNDER SEAL
v.	
PHILADELPHIA VASCULAR INSTITUTE LLC	
-and-	
JAMES MCGUCKIN, M.D.	
Defendants.	
	!

FALSE CLAIMS ACT COMPLAINT

The above-named Qui Tam Relator, on behalf of the United States, hereby avers as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. This action seeks redress for false and/or fraudulent claims made upon the United States and other violations of the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729 et seq. for Medicare and/or Medicaid fraud.

PARTIES

- 2. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
- 3. The instant action has been filed on behalf of the United States by *Qui Tam* Relator Aaron Shiloh M.D., FSIR.
- Relator Dr. Shiloh (hereinafter "Relator") is an adult individual and citizen of the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 5. Defendant Philadelphia Vascular Institute, LLC ("PVI") ("Defendant") is believed and therefore averred to be a for profit limited liability corporation that exists and operates pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with a principal place of business at 585 County Line Road Radnor, Pennsylvania 19087 within the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
- Defendant James McGuckin, M.D. (hereinafter "McGuckin") is believed and therefore averred to be an adult individual and citizen of the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 7. At all times relevant hereto, each Defendant acted by and through its agents, servants, and employees, each of whom, at all times relevant, acted within the scope of her or her job duties.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 8. The averments of the foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein as if the same were set forth in full.
- 9. The Court may properly maintain personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant's contacts with this state and this judicial district are sufficient for the exercise of jurisdiction over Defendant to comply with traditional notions of fair play and

- substantial justice, satisfying the standard set forth by the Supreme Court of the United States in International Shoe Co. v. Washington, 326 U.S. 310 (1945) and its progeny.
- 10. The Court may exercise original subject matter jurisdiction over the instant action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 (Federal Question Jurisdiction) because it arises under the laws of the United States.
- 11. The Court may also maintain supplemental jurisdiction over any state law claims set forth herein or later added pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a) and Rule 18(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because they are sufficiently related to the claim(s) within the Court's original jurisdiction that they form part of the same case or controversy.
- 12. Venue is properly laid in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(1) and 1391(b)(2) because Defendant resides in and/or conducts business in this judicial district and because a substantial part of the acts and/or omissions giving rise to the claims set forth herein occurred in this judicial district.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 13. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
- 14. Relator is a licensed physician and graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.
- 15. Relator is double board certified in radiology and interventional radiology.
- 16. Relator became employed by Defendant in or around January 2, 2018 after selling his practice to it for a sum certain.
- 17. The owner of PVI is Dr. James McGuckin, who apparently is no stranger to fraud litigation.

- 18. The Department of Justice announced on or about October 23, 2018 that Vascular Access Centers ("VAC") would pay \$3.825 million dollars and up to \$18 million dollars to resolve false claims allegations.
- 19. Upon information and belief, Dr. McGuckin owns or holds a controlling and/or significant interest in VAC.
- 20. Defendant operates in a manner that is designed to essentially abuse the Medicare system.
- 21. During the course of his practice, Relator observed numerous practices advocated by Dr. McGuckin that were questionable.
- 22. For example, Relator was instructed to perform a three-level intravascular ultrasound image segmentation ("IVUS") in every arterial case even when medically unnecessary in an effort to bilk Medicare and/or Medicaid.
- 23. Dr. McGuckin commented that "IVUS is an ATM."
- 24. To facilitate these types of procedures, Defendant would go to wide reaching lengths, such as driving and giving rides to patients to VAC facilities at no cost.
- 25. Many patients with minimal to no clinically significant symptoms were receiving atherectomy, angioplasty and stent.
- 26. The two major codes 37227 and 37229 reimburse from Medicare at \$15,000.00 and \$10,000.00 respectively resulting in huge windfalls for Defendant.
- 27. Relator suggested early on to do noninvasive imaging like computed tomography angiography ("CTA") as a diagnostic tool to reduce the number of invasive procedures and Dr. McGuckin scoffed.
- 28. McGuckin's resistance to CTA was not motivated by medical science, but profit.
- 29. Upon information and belief, CTA would exclude many patients from invasive treatment as it would effectively report the stenosis or occlusions and often would show non-

- hemodynamically significant disease which would preclude a highly enumerating arterial intervention where the degree of stenosis could be easily over estimated.
- 30. Upon information and belief, no patient ever received pre-procedural imaging other than PADnet or ultrasound.
- 31. Most patient cases followed a distinctive pattern.
- 32. The doctors would access the less "symptomatic" side and perform diagnostic imaging.
- 33. That would typically lead to finding anything to bring the patient back to treat in a few weeks.
- 34. The doctors would then perform the interventional procedures on the other side.
- 35. The doctors would perform atherectomy, angioplasty and stent often of the below the knee vessels as well as the superficial femoral artery ("SFA") in order to maximize revenue.
- 36. Although there were some patients with disease warranting treatment, there were also many asymptomatic patients treated under the pretense that doing so would "save the leg" from amputation.
- 37. The practice of treating asymptomatic patients has no basis in the peer-reviewed literature and is in fact medically unnecessary.
- 38. All Medicare and Medicaid patients would have a three-level IVUS performed on every case as the device was already opened at the beginning of the case.
- 39. In fact, Dr. McGuckin did not care if the IVUS was used before, during, or after intervention as long as there was documentation that it was used.
- 40. All patients who were treated subsequently had one month, 3-month, 6-month, 12-month ultrasounds in the name of "follow-up."
- 41. However, it was a clear-cut pretense to identify patients to be re-treated.

- 42. Specific verbiage was taught to facilitate "proper billing and coding" of the arterial procedures, which is code for maximizing revenue.
- 43. Prior to the realtor's arrival at PVI, the other doctors in the group did not have hospital privileges.
- 44. Relator helped another physician, Dr. Watts, obtain hospital privileges which then allowed him to obtain health partners (Medicaid) credentialing at the 42nd and Market location in Philadelphia.
- 45. Thus, prior to 2018, Dr. Watts was performing procedures on Medicaid patients under Dr. McGuckin's name in 2016 and 2017.
- 46. Health partners abruptly terminated all physicians service agreements in June 2018 likely secondary to massive overcharging.
- 47. The Relator identified and questioned why Medicare and Medicaid patients were not being charged any co-pays or co-insurances for procedures rendered and was told that they could not afford it (so they were not charged).
- 48. Dr. McGuckin purchased a vascular surgeon's practice in the Poconos from Dr. Boris Paul who in fact, upon information and belief, still listed as accepting new patients at Pocono Surgical Associates.
- 49. Dr. Paul has not worked there in many years.
- 50. Instead, Dr. McGuckin placed a nurse practitioner, Joe Eckstein at the office who would facilitate the evaluation of any new and old patients and drove all the patients to PA Vascular Institute for arteriograms with intervention.
- 51. Many of these patients had 5-10 arteriograms a year, which was far outside any standard of care.

- 52. When the volume of arteriograms dropped in 2018, Dr. McGuckin held many meetings to berate the staff and to reinvigorate the practice by facilitating the bringing back of every possible patient.
- 53. This included, but was not limited to, culling all prior charts and phone calls.
- 54. Moreover, upon information and belief, there are many space sharing agreements facilitated by Defendant and/or McGuckin with various podiatrists, internists, and surgeons that are clear cut ways to avoid anti-kickback violations.

COUNT I FALSE CLAIMS ACT 37 U.S.C. § 3729(a) Against All Defendants

- 55. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
- 56. Title 31 of the United States Code, Section 3729(a), provides that any person who:
 - a. knowingly presents, or causes to be presented, to an officer or employee of the United States Government or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States a false or fraudulent claim for payment or approval;
 - b. knowingly makes, uses or causes to be made or used, a false record or statement to get a false or fraudulent claim paid or approved by the Government;
 - c. conspires to defraud the Government by getting a false or fraudulent claim allowed or paid;
 - d. knowingly makes, uses or causes to be made or used, a false record or statement to conceal, avoid, or decrease an obligation to pay or transmit money or property to the Government is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not less than \$5,500.00 and not more than \$11,000.00, plus 3 times the amount of damages which the Government sustains because of the act of that person.
- 57. Defendant's actions as described above constitute the making of false claims to the United States Government and is a violation of 31 U.S.C. 3729.
- 58. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3729(a), any person who violates the provisions set forth supra must pay a civil penalty of not less than \$5,500.00 and not more than \$11,000, plus three times the amount of damages which the U.S. Government sustains as a result of Defendant's making of false claims as hereinabove set forth.

59. By its actions as aforesaid, Defendant has violated the False Claims Act, 37 U.S.C. § 3729.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Relator, on behalf of the United States, respectfully requests that judgment be entered against Defendant in an amount equal to three (3) times the amount of all monies it is determined to have fraudulently received from the United States Government as a result of its conduct as aforesaid, civil penalties, attorneys' fees, and all other legal and equitable relief deemed just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

KOLMAN ELY, P.C.

/S/ W. Charles Sipio
Timothy M. Kolman, Esquire
Wayne A. Ely, Esquire
W. Charles Sipio, Esquire
414 Hulmeville Avenue
Penndel, PA 19047
(T) 215-750-3134 / (F) 215-750-3138

Attorneys for Relator, Aaron Shiloh M.D., FSIR

Dated: December 13, 2018